



Family News

News and Information for Families of individuals served at Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital during the transition to community-based services.

MEETING INFORMATION

The time and location of the next meeting of the **Southeast Regional Project Team** will be announced in a future edition.

HANDY NUMBERS AND WEB SITES:

MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

1-800-903-9822

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

Maintained by FSSA to answer your questions.

DD Waiver Ombudsman:

1-800-622-4484

Available to respond to your comments and questions.

The Arc of Indiana:

1-800-382-9100

www.arcind.org

www.thearcink.org

A statewide group that advocates on behalf of people with mental retardation and related disabilities and their families.

Area Agency on Aging:

1-800-986-3505

www.iaaa.org

AAAs provide case management, transportation, and other services to older adults and people with disabilities. Call to find the agency closest to you.

Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL):

1-800-845-6914

Part of Indiana's Independent Living Service system, SICIL provides people with disabilities with information and referral, advocacy and other services.

Former Muscatatuck Residents Pleased with Community Living

New Indiana University survey documents attitudes on community life

Over 70% of former Muscatatuck State Developmental Center residents and their family members who responded to a new survey are "pleased" or "very pleased" with their lives since leaving the southeastern Indiana facility for the developmentally disabled.

The survey - the Muscatatuck Family follow-up Survey - was conducted by Indiana University's Indiana Institute on Disability and Community in early 2002. Respondents included 41 people with disabilities, or their family members or guardians, who had left the facility to live in Indiana communities.

"Overall, we learned that families were satisfied with Muscatatuck, but once they left the facility they were even more pleased with community life," said Dr. Teresa Grossi, lead author of the survey. Com-

munity life provided the former Muscatatuck residents with the opportunities to go to the YMCA, shop for groceries, eat out, and participate in leisure activities, the survey report notes.

Other results of the Survey include:

- 3 times as many family members see loved ones more as opposed to less, after leaving the facility (56% to 19%).
- 2 times as many family members are "very pleased" with their loved one's life after leaving the facility vs. before the move (39% to 17%).
- 2/3 of family members (66%) were "pleased" or "very pleased" with Muscatatuck services. More were "pleased" or "very pleased" with services in the community (71%).

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INTERNET ACCESS RESOURCE CENTER

In recent months both the Family and Employee Newsletters have listed places in Southeastern Indiana where the Internet could be accessed for free. This month we list a variety of disability-specific resources that are available on-line.

The Arc

www.thearc.org

The Arc is a national organization with state and county chapters dedicated to helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc, founded in 1950, helps prepare adults for employment, find job placements, teach independent living skills and other activities. Listed below are the State ARC office and the Jennings County office, just two of the 40+ ARC offices statewide. Go to: www.thearc.org/chapters/indtomn.htm for a complete listing of ARC offices in Indiana.

The Arc of Indiana

22 East Washington St. Ste 210

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 977-2375

Jennings County Association for Retarded Citizens

PO Box 411

Columbus, IN 47202

Phone: (812) 372-0610

Goodwill Industries International

www.goodwill.org

Goodwill Industries International is a network of 209 community-based, autonomous member organizations that serves people with workplace disadvantages and disabilities by providing job training and employment services, as well as job placement opportunities and post-employment support. With locations in the United States, Canada and 22 other countries, Goodwill helps people overcome barriers to employment and become independent members of their communities. Their programs are funded through the sale of donated clothing and household goods at any of their 1,900 retail stores. Nearly 86% of their revenues goes directly to community services and job training and placement. For more information please visit the website listed or contact the regional office near you.

Bridgepointe Goodwill Industries and Easter Seal Society

1329 Applegate Lane

Clarksville, IN 47129

Phone: (812) 283-7908

Fax: (812) 283-6248



Former Muscatatuck Residents Pleased

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- When specifically asked about “differences in quality of one’s life” after leaving the facility 71% were “pleased” or “very pleased” with the difference, 25% were “uncertain” and under 5% were “worried” or “very worried.”

“On the whole, the results are very encouraging,” said John Hamilton, Secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. “This survey confirms our belief that people with disabilities do well when they have the opportunity to live in the community.”

NAMI: National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

www.nami.org/history.htm

NAMI is a nonprofit, grassroots, self-help, support and advocacy organization of consumers, families and friends of people with severe mental illnesses. The central NAMI office for the state can be contacted for regional offices in Southern Indiana at:

NAMI of Indiana

PO Box 22697
2601 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222
Or call 1-800-950-NAMI

Protection & Advocacy: The Nation's Disability Rights Network

www.protectionandadvocacy.com

Protection & Advocacy, P&A, is a nationwide network of congressionally mandated, legally-based disability rights agencies. P&A agencies have the authority to provide legal representation and other advocacy services, under all federal and state laws, to all people with disabilities. P&A's monitor, investigate and attempt to remedy adverse conditions within state care. P&A works to help all people of disability exercise self determination and choice and have equality of opportunity and full participation.

Disability Resources Monthly (DRM) Guide to: Disability Resources on the Internet

www.disabilityresources.org

Disability Resources promotes and improves awareness, availability and accessibility of information that can help people with disabilities live, learn, love, work and play independently. They disseminate information about books, pamphlets, magazines, newsletters, videos, databases, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, telephone hotlines and on-line services that provide free, inexpensive or hard-to-find information to help people with disabilities live independently.



Family Resource Center

Each month this space will highlight different disability and transition specific print and video resources available to borrow free-of-charge from the Center for Disability Information and Referral (CeDIR), part of Indiana University's Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. The resources listed below can be obtained by calling CeDIR toll-free at 1-800-437-7924. Borrowers can keep the materials up to four weeks and the material will be mailed directly to your home. The only expense to the borrower is the cost of returning the material via US mail.

This month's featured selections:

- **BOOK:** *Community Living Options: Family Funded, Individually Owned, or Shared* (1995) by the Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky
- **BOOK:** *Not just a place to live: Building community in Toronto* (1997) by the Center on Human Policy, Syracuse University
- **VIDEO:** *Whose decision is it anyway?: Service providers supporting self-determination* (1997) by the Program Development Associates

For more information on CeDir, visit their web site at: www.iidc.indiana.edu/~cedir

Contact Us!

FSSA maintains a web site, a toll-free phone number, and this newsletter to keep MSDC and MSH families fully informed.

Anyone who would like to receive this newsletter can call the number listed, leave their address, and be added to our mailing list.

The web site features questions discussed at family and employee meetings, the final report from the Governor's Council on State Operated Care Facilities, updates on the *Olmstead* process, articles, and more.

You can visit the web site at:
www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

If you have questions, comments or concerns, or want to request copies of items on the web site, write to:

Secretary, FSSA
402 W. Washington St.,
Room W461
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7088
Attn: MSDC/MSH

or email:
OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us

or call toll-free, 24 hours a day:
1-800-903-9822

You can also call this number if you have concerns about the services that your loved one receives after leaving MSDC or MSH.

Family and Employee News Now Available On-Line

Both the *Family News* and *Employee News* newsletters will now be posted on-line each month. FSSA's Muscatatuck/Madison Transition Process web site has added the newsletters as a feature. The web page can be viewed at:

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

Work Group Update

Work Group Update is a continuing series of articles that review the activities of the nine transition work groups. This month's Update is focused on the work of the Developmental Disability Capacity Work Group.

The purpose of the Developmental Disability Capacity Work Group is to ensure that persons with developmental disabilities currently living at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center (MSDC) and Madison State Hospital (MSH) are successfully transitioned into an alternative living arrangement utilizing the person-centered planning process. It also works to ensure that the planning process includes a focus on the most inclusive environment, individual choice, community integration, and consumer/family involvement throughout the process. It seeks to develop collaboration among consumers, institutions, and the community service providers which will result in a timely transition for each individual. Finally, the group works to increase service options and providers through the identification of service gaps and barriers.

Since May 1, 2001, sixty-six individuals have been transitioned to new living situations (through April 23, 2002). Thirty-one individuals moved to supported living arrangements; twenty-nine moved to group homes; two to Alternative Family

for Adults (AFA) arrangements; three to MSH; one has moved to a nursing home; and none have moved to large, private ICFs/MR. Approximately another 50 individuals are expected to transition out of MSDC by the end of July 2002.

The person-centered planning process has begun at Madison State Hospital. One person has moved to a supported living arrangement. Twelve individuals have completed the process and placement options are being explored -- ten more individuals are in the beginning stages of the planning process. There are approximately seventy individuals with developmental disabilities currently living at MSH.

A total of five regional meetings were held in different parts of central and southern Indiana. The purpose of those meetings was to provide information to families from Muscatatuck and Madison regarding the overall transition process. In addition, each meeting offered the opportunity for families to meet agencies that provide community-based services. On September 15th, meetings were held in Columbus and Madison - some forty families attended these events. Informational meetings were again held for Muscatatuck families; one on February 26, 2002 (in Indianapolis), and one on March 26, 2002 (at MSDC). Some thirty families attended these events.